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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT

Marc HUSEMANN et al.

SERIAL NO.

To be assigned [This is 371 of PCT/EP/2003/014396]

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.